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Item 13 (k) of the provisional agenda*
Economic and environmental questions: cartography

Argentina: draft resolution**

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 2010/240 of 21 July 2010, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its substantive session of 2011 a report on global geographic information management,

Recalling also Statistical Commission decision 41/110 of 26 February 2010, in which the Commission requested the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to convene a meeting of an international expert group to address global geographic information management issues, which could include the possibility of establishing a global body under the auspices of the United Nations,

Recalling further the resolution on global geographic information management adopted by the eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific,[1] in which the Conference requested the Secretary-General and the United Nations Secretariat to initiate discussions and prepare a report, for submission to the Economic and Social Council, on global coordination of geographic information management, including consideration of the possible creation of a United Nations global forum for the exchange of information between countries and other interested parties, and in particular for sharing best practices in legal and policy instruments, institutional management models, technical solutions and standards, interoperability of systems and data, and sharing mechanisms that guarantee easy and timely accessibility of geographic information and services,

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* E/2011/100 and Corr.1.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.I.2), chap. IV B.7.

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Recognizing the importance of integrating cartographic and statistical information, as well as spatial data, with a view to providing location-based geospatial information, applications and services,

Recognizing also the role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation on cartography, geographical names and geospatial information, including through the organization of conferences, expert meetings, technical publications, training courses and cooperation projects,

Taking into account the urgent need to take concrete actions to strengthen international cooperation in the area of global geospatial information management,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management[2] and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recognizes* the urgent need to promote international cooperation in the management of global geospatial information;

3. *Decides* in this regard to establish the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the annex to the present resolution;

4. *Encourages* regular high-level discussions on global geospatial information management, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting national, regional and global efforts to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and expertise, on mutually agreed terms and conditions, to assist developing countries in building and strengthening national capacities in this field.

Annex

Terms of reference of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Objectives and functions

1. The objectives and functions of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management will be:

(a) To provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among Member States, and between Member States and relevant international organizations, including the United Nations regional cartographic conferences and their permanent committees on spatial data infrastructures, on the management of global geospatial information;

(b) To propose workplans and guidelines with a view to establishing common principles, policies, methods, mechanisms and standards for the interoperability and interchangeability of geospatial data and services;

(c) To provide a platform for the development of effective strategies on how to build and strengthen national capacity for the management of geospatial information, especially in developing countries, and, in this regard, to assist

[2] E/2011/89.

interested countries in developing the full potential of geospatial information and the underlying technology;

(d) To compile and disseminate best practices and experiences of national, regional and international bodies on geospatial information related, inter alia, to legal instruments, management models and technical standards, thus contributing to the establishment of spatial data infrastructures.

Membership, composition and terms of office

2. The Committee will comprise experts from all Member States, as well as experts from international organizations, as observers. In appointing their national representatives, Member States will seek to designate experts with specific knowledge drawn from the interrelated fields of surveying, geography, cartography and mapping, remote sensing, land/sea and geographic information systems and environmental protection.

3. The Committee will elect two co-Chairs during each session from among its members, respecting geographical balance and representation.

4. The Committee may establish, as and when needed, informal working groups or subcommittees to deal with specific issues related to its work programme.

Reporting procedure

5. The Committee will report to the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

6. The Committee will normally meet annually.

Secretariat

7. The Committee will be supported by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Cartographic Section of the Department of Field Support.

Meeting documentation

8. Meeting documentation will include an agenda, the previous report of the Committee, thematic notes prepared by working groups or subcommittees, notes by the Secretariat and other relevant documents prepared by external experts or expert groups.